

The way we looked



Bug Light — 1875

The 112-year-old Duxbury Pier Light, more commonly known as "The Bug Light" will be replaced sometime this summer by a new lighthouse by the U.S. Coast Guard.

The Bug Light, built in 1871 according to the Coast Guard, is located on the north side of the main channel to Plymouth,

Kingston and Duxbury. It's light, which has a range of six miles, flashes red every five seconds.

The metal structure, known as a spark plug light, has deteriorated over the years to the point where it takes much time and money to maintain according to the Coast Guard officials. (Photo loaned by Pilgrim Society. Text by Maggie Mills.)



Bug Light — 1978

This photo of the Bug Light was taken during the summer of 1978 by Walter Brooks, MPG promotion

manager and Cape Cod Guide editor and publisher.

Bug Light — 1983

This summer the Bug Light will be replaced by a 33-foot high tower made of seven levels of molded, fiberglass plates, according to a U.S. Coast Guard official at the Boston media center.

This will be a replica of the same light which replaced the Deer Island Light last summer. The Deer Island Light went up in four days and the lamp was turned on Dec. 16, 1982.

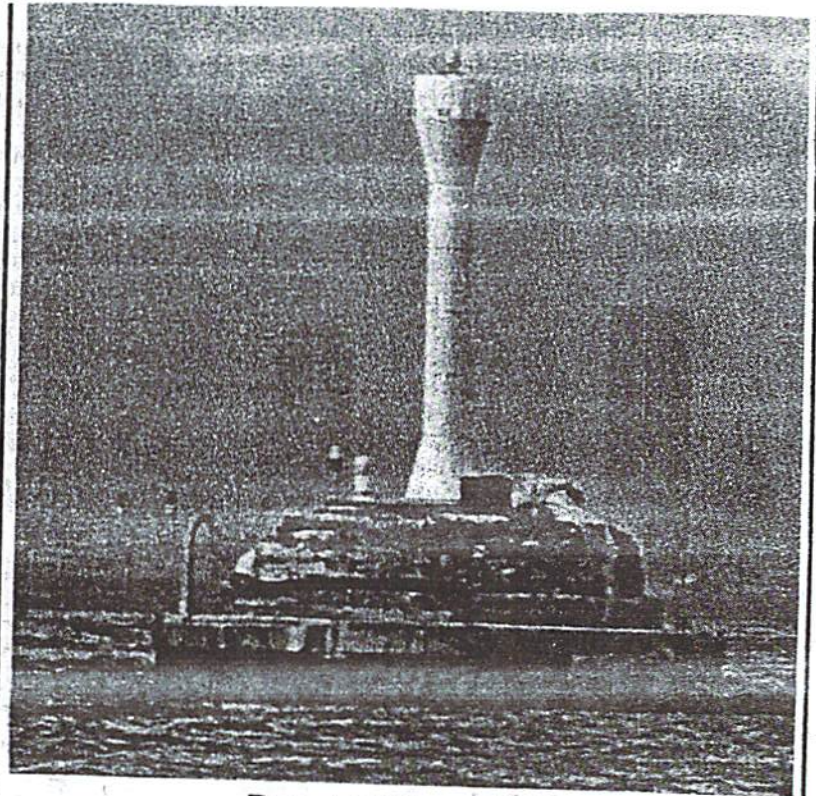
These towers are designed using computer simulated stress tests to be sure they'll withstand the weather of the individual locations.

Minimal maintenance is expected to be done by the Aids to Navigation Team in Boston. The

lighthouse design was chosen because it most economically satisfies all interested parties, said Lt. Richard W. Fish, chief, navigational aids section of the First District Civil Engineering Branch.

The lighthouse supports the light, plus the visibility of the tower itself and its appearance will not detract from the historic character of the channel outside the beach.

Work is expected to start this summer and take at least five weeks to complete. The iron plates on the Bug Light, each weighing between 150 to 300 pounds, must be taken down carefully so that no one is injured. (Photo loaned by the U.S. Coast Guard. Text by Maggie Mills.)



Bug Light — 1983